

Geology in the community: with particular reference to the Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan

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FRENCH, G. (2007). Geology in the community: with particular reference to the Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan. *Proceedings of the Shropshire Geological Society*, **13**, 64. The Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan (SGAP) has been prepared with support from Natural England by a working group of the Shropshire Geological Forum and is one of a series of Local Geodiversity Action Plans which have been published in England under a process started by English Nature in 1998.

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The creation of a Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan (SGAP) has been a collaborative effort led jointly by the Planning Department of Shropshire County Council, the Museum Service of Shropshire County Council, the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, and the Shropshire Geological Society. This has been conducted on behalf of all geoscientific stakeholders within the County, represented by the Shropshire Geological Forum. The first draft has recently been published (French, *et al.* 2007), with the first public announcement being at the symposium.

The SGAP provides a coordinating framework in which to progress geological conservation and interpretation based actions within the county. The plan is concerned with all evidence of geodiversity in Shropshire, from rock outcrops and landscapes to historic mining features, stone buildings and museum collections. It therefore has potential relevance to a wide range of audiences, including the minerals industry, farmers, landowners, local authorities, planning consultees, consultants and the education and tourism sectors.

Central government advice in Planning Policy Statement 9 (Biodiversity & Geological Conservation) requires geological interests to be taken properly into account in land use planning decisions. The SGAP will provide greater clarity on geological conservation issues in response to this requirement.

REFERENCE

- French, G. Jenkinson, A. Etheridge, L. & Lockett, D. (2007). *Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan (SGAP) [draft]*. Published by Shropshire County Council (Planning Development Control), Economy & Environment), The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.
[can be downloaded from Shropshire County Council's geodiversity webpage:
<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf/open/DDE0A3AEE74A600C802571C600567E70>]

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